(c) The members of the Tobacco Board were selected as per provisions of 'Establishment and Constitution of the Board' under Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and rules on 'manner of filling Vacancies and terms of Office of Members' as provided under Rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1975.

(d) and (e) Recommendations for nomination to the Tobacco Board were obtained from the various State Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industrial Development and the Tobacco Board. Nominations were also received directly from individuals, public representatives and other interested bodies. The nominations received were scrutinised, in consultation with the Tobacco Board, to determine the fulfilment of legal requirements of the Act/Rules, and to provide due representation to important Tobacco growing areas, trade and industry.

Statement by Prime Minister regarding commitment towards WTO

*257. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his recent visit to France has made a statement that India would abide by the commitment made to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in respect of Intellectual Property Rights and gradually do away with the quota system;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also announced that banking and insurance sectors would also be thrown open in due course; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the above is correct especially keeping in view the stand taken by Government in the Parliament on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) While interacting with Indian and French industry representatives at Paris, the Prime Minister had, inter-alia, clarified the status of our policy concerning India's fulfillment of obligations under WTO, consumer goods imports and reform of the insurance sector. On import policy he stated that the process of moving away from quantitative restrictions on consumer goods will take time because our priority at present is the liberalisation of imports for the infrastructure sectors. On insurance, the PM stated this is a matter on which some gradualness is needed.

The statements made by the Prime Minister are entirely consistent with the stand taken by the Government in the Parliament during the Budget Session and in reply to Parliament Questions.

Pension scheme for nationalised Bank employees

*258. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA:

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he announced a pension scheme for the employees of Nationalised Banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks Association entered into an agreement with the Employees' Union of Nationalised Banks on 29th October, 1993 for enforcing the pension scheme with effect from 1st November, 1993;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scheme has so far not been implemented; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government will direct the Nationalised Banks to enforce this scheme with effect from a specific date?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Finalisation of the proposed Pension Scheme for the Bank employees involves certain formalities which are at various stages of completion. The Pension Scheme will become operational as soon as the requisite formalities are completed.

ISI Marks on mosquito repellants

*259. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of brands of mosquito repellants available in the market do not carry the ISI mark for quality and safety;